[11th August 1954

Grant of lands on darkhast or on lease to certain landless poor labourers enjoying occupancy rights in the Reserve Forest of Muliyar in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara district.

* 1238 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of any resolution regarding the grant of lands on darkhast or on lease to certain landless poor labourers who have been enjoying occupancy rights in the Reserve Forest of Muliyar and neighbouring villages passed by the Kisan Panchayat Conference on 14th May 1953 at Muliyar in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) It was examined by the Government and it was decided that each case of encroachment in the buffer areas should be dealt with on its merits."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Since these lands have been in continuous occupation for a very long time and since valuable improvements have been effected on these lands, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of the grant of lands on darkhast? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that decisions will be taken on merits. If certain encroachments would affect the interests of reserve forests, it is not possible to grant that request."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it not a fact that these tenants were in occupation of these lands before the reserve forests were actually constituted? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It might be so, Sir. But the interests of reserve forests that have since been constituted must have prior consideration."

Statistics about village panchayats.

* 1239 *Q.*—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. R. Viswanathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(i) the number of members in the village panchayats (major and minor);

(ii) the other local bodies; and

(iii) the number of presidents of panchayats and other local bodies, belonging to Harijan Communities and Scheduled Tribes (separately)?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMI PADAYACHI :—" (i) The number of members of village panchayats belonging to the Harijan community and the Scheduled Tribes is 4,973 and 25 respectively.